(b) the extend of assistance or funds spent by Government under Health Package Scheme for weavers;

(c) the details of funds released/allocated for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(d) the details of action plan to provide such weavers proper drinking water facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) In the un-organised Handloom Sector some weavers do suffer from diseases like T.B, Asthma etc. However, the Government of Orissa has not given any information about the extent of weavers suffering from these diseases. Government of India has spent a sum of Rs. 124.00 lakhs under the Health Package Scheme for handloom weavers from the year 1992-93 to 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) During 1999-2000 budget of Rs. 25.00 lakhs was earmarked to the State Government of Orissa under Health Package Scheme and no amount has been released to them due to non-submission of viable proposals and Utilisation Certificate of earlier releases. Funds would be made available to Government of Orissa upon receipt of viable proposals including those for provision of drinking water to the weavers.

Fire-Proof Houses for Handloom Weavers in Orissa

4113. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Central plan scheme to provide fireproof workshed houses and dewelling houses-cum-worksheds for handloom weavers and details of funds allocated to each State during the last two years;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to Cyclone and Super Cyclone in October, 1999 workshed and houses of the weavers have been damaged in Orissa;

(c) the proposal received or action taken by the Central Government to enhance and release adequate funds for Orissa; and

(d) the details of allocation and release of funds made for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) There is no Scheme under the Ministry of Textiles to provide fire-proof Central Government is implementing workshed-cum-Housing Scheme to provide workplace and dwelling unit for the handloom weavers. During last two years (1998-1999 1999-2000), the details of release made to States is given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds released during 1998-99	Funds released during 1999-2000
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	72.08
2.	Andhra Pradesh	280.38	340.21
3.	Assam	38.78	59.18
4.	Himachal Pradesh	22.93	22.92
5.	Karnataka	116.47	—
6.	Kerala	90.00	—
7.	Maharashtra	124.05	0.95
8.	Manipur	66.00	127.50
9.	Meghalaya	5.53	—
10.	Mizoram	13.60	—
11.	Nagaland	44.00	150.00
12.	Orissa	88.54	180.00
13.	Rajasthan	—	92.24
14.	Sikkim	100.00	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	248.72	199.92
16.	Uttar Pradesh	20.00	—
	Total	1259.00	1245.00

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has sanctioned construction of 2000 Rural Workshed-cum-Houses to Government of Orissa for super cyclone affected area and an advance of Rs. 180.00 lakhs has been released. Funds would be made available upon receipt of viable proposals from the State Government.

Constitution of Anomalies Committee

4114 SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that upgradation of pay scales of Assistant Director (Handicrafts) and of Handicrafts Promotion Officer is under the consideration of Government and for that purpose anomalies committee has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the committee will submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An anomalies committee to consider the upgradation of various cadres in the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles including the cadre of Assistant Director (Handicrafts) and that of Handicrafts Promotion Officers has been Constituted by the Ministry of Textiles under the Chairmanship of Jt. Secretary (Admn), Ministry of Textiles.

The upgradation of pay scales are under active consideration of the Government. However, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for the Committee to submit its report. Efforts are being made to settle the matter expeditiously.

Upgradation of Investment and Technology in Sericulture Sector

4115. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has formulated schemes to rope in corporate into the sericulture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to bring Silk into OGL category;